Toronto Anarchist Black Cross

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2

Free All ★ Prisoners

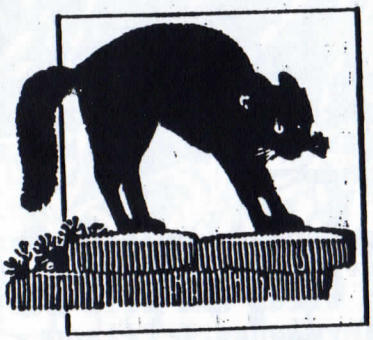
P.O. BOX 6326 STN A TORONTO
ONTARIO, CANADA M5W 1P7

Despite the pretense at "rehabilitation," prisons exist to punish. And the punishment need not have anything to do with the actual "crime" committed. Often people are punished for having the wrong beliefs, and many end up being tortured with dangerous chemical lobotomies and electro-shock in so-called psychiatric "hospitals." Others go to jails or prisons. We are all inmates in a guilt-ridden society where someone has to pay for the sins, and those with enough money to bribe the right officials are not going to be the ones.

There are some people who have been shoved into a corner at least once too often and will not stand for it any longer. Prison activists are seen as trouble-makers, and are often punished accordingly. They are also often very caring people who believe enough in human rights to have decided that it's worth taking the risks to tell the truth.

"The truth" about life inside prisons is often inaccessible to any one outside. Incoming and outgoing mail is read, and censored when the officials deem it necessary. Prisoners are

usually not allowed to communicate between institutions. Access to writing materials and stamps is viewed as a privilege (often denied or granted on the whim of individual guards), as is access to books, the yard, showers, visits or mail. Prison activists may spend a lot of time in the "hole" (a disgusting little cell kept filthy and freezing in prisons - slightly less unbearable in psychiatric institutes). The inmates are often stripped naked and given no blankets with only a cement slab for a bed. The toilet is usually a hole in the middle of the floor (thus the name, "hole"), which is easily plugged, resulting in a pool of sewage in the bottom of the cell. This is called "disciplinary segregation" by those who hold the keys.



Prison society cannot be separated from the rest of society, much as the authorities may like to try. We are all human beings together, and as has been said many, many times, the oppression of one is the oppression of all. Activists inside prisons are at far greater a risk (from getting the shit kicked out of them to being murdered by guards, or other prisoners some how convinced to do the dirty work for them) if they can be isolated. As well, their effectiveness is dependant on contact with other activists outside. Those of us working for prison abolition from the outside of the bars obviously depend on the cooperation of the prisoners. Together we can show the truth to anyone willing to listen.

Once we understand the real purpose of prisons, as a tool of oppression and control, all that remains is to tear down the walls. We're told that people go to jail for breaking the law. Laws are made by politicians, with cops and doctors as paid, armed thugs to enforce them. Politicians lie, and are elected by big money, often controlled by corporations. Of course such a system must have a way to deal with dissidents, or those who may not agree with the arbitrary rules of the game. The farce of "democracy" is certainly a poor replacement for our consent. Just the threat of being locked up seems to keep most people in line. Every one has their complaints, of course, but they're best left unspoken... Any one trying to do something to change this situation is quickly confronted first, by an army of bureaucracy, and then violent authority.

Obviously things have gotten to the point where there must be some pretty fundamental changes in the way we are living - even just to have a chance at survival. On a global level. If we want to, we can get it together and allow life to happen. The more we can do together, the brighter the future gets.

TIMOTHY OWEN GOODWIN

Timothy Owen Goodwin, a gay activist currently incarcerated at Kansas State Prison (KSP), was sentenced to "one to ten years" in 1982, after pleading guilty to charges of "simple robbery" and forgery.

Goodwin, who has recently been refused parole again, makes numerous alarming allegations of anti-gay abuse in documents that he has filed with the court in support of his motion for immediate release. He claims that his medical records have been falsified during his imprisonment, that he has been segregated from other prisoners against his will, and that he has been denied access to legal materials. He also says that books have been withheld from him for fear of contamination, due to a false allegation that he has AIDS.

In late December 1985, Goodwin was paroled from Kansas State Industrial Reformatory (KSIR), and ordered to participate in a drug and alcohol program. The parole board had offered to set up a reasonable payment plan but, when he arrived to begin the program, he was told he would have to pay $6000 -- more money than he had. (Most inmates are in this program at the state's expense.) After three days, Goodwin escaped to Wichita, Kansas.

Goodwin's motion for release explains that he was re-arrested on New Year's Eve, 1985. He spent the next three weeks in a local jail. He was kept in isolation, because a parole officer claimed to have received an anonymous call saying Goodwin had AIDS. When he was to be transferred back to KSIR, he says, an officer "appeared at my cell door with a surgical mask over his face and rubber gloves on his hands and instructed me to strip and put on a pair of hospital pajamas, a pair of disposable styrofoam slippers and a mask." Goodwin was then "paraded before the townspeople in this fashion."

The documents explain that he was not taken into KSIR through admissions and discharge. Instead, he was walked right through the building: "I probably saw upwards of a hundred inmates, who all yelled 'AIDS,' 'queer,' etc.... I

could only cry and wonder, 'Why me?'" Next, he says, he was taken to an isolation room in the medical clinic and forced to give blood for an AIDS test. He didn't resist, because he feared being disciplined for not cooperating. Nevertheless, the next day his belongings were taken and burned and he was put in "the hole" (a punishment cell). After a night on a concrete bed, without blankets, he was taken back to the clinic, where further AIDS tests were done against his wishes. After several days, during which guards refused to go near him and the entire prison population was told he had AIDS, he was returned to the "hole" for more than a week.

Goodwin was then taken to the medical segregation unit, where he was forbidden access to the yard and allowed a shower only every two days. The KSIR administrator told the press that he was the Kansas prison system's first "AIDS victim." Goodwin maintains that he does not have AIDS.

Throughout Goodwin's time in isolation, guards were talking to other inmates about him. In March, "when the tension was highest," he was put back into "general population." After being forced to physically defend himself in several altercations with other inmates, he was able to convince some of them that he does not have AIDS. Ordered to submit to further testing, Goodwin refused, telling the doctor that "I don't have AIDS and I don't think it's legal to test someone for AIDS if they don't want to be tested. I then was allowed to leave but it was recorded and I was classified a trouble maker."

At the end of March, Goodwin was accused of being a homosexual, which he doesn't deny, and was placed back in an isolated cell in a block designated for homosexuals. He and another inmate began a hunger strike and refused to return to their segregation cells. They were immediately placed in 'disciplinary segregation.' On July 21, Goodwin was transferred to KSP. He noted that "almost all of KSIR's gay population has been transferred up here. KSIR is prejudiced and has eliminated what it hates by sending us all to KSP."

On July 28, Goodwin went to the infirmary for a hernia operation, which he had been refused at KSIR due to fear of AIDS. Dr Waltz at KSP diagnosed Goodwin's condition as life-threatening, and operated immediately.

Later, Goodwin's documents say, Waltz falsified his medical records, allowing him to be in the clinic for trumped-up back injuries without alerting anyone to their "emotional lover-type relationship."

Then, in early September, Goodwin was transferred to a medium-security facility in Lansing, Kansas. He says that Waltz told him their relationship was over, and threatened to have him sent to the state mental hospital, or otherwise destroying his chances of parole, if he didn't keep quiet.

In November 1986, Goodwin was transferred back to KSP, where he remains. Waltz resigned in January 1987 and, in February, Goodwin went before the parole board, to

no avail. Goodwin believes that the parole board based their rejection partly on his sexual orientation.

During the parole hearing, says Goodwin, he was asked if being gay had frustrated him into committing the crime for which he was imprisoned over five years ago. "I told them they were absolutely wrong for even suggesting my culture had anything to do with my crime."

Goodwin comes up for parole again in August. He asks that letters on his behalf be directed to: Parole Officer Supervisor, Parole Office, Reno County, Hutchinson, KS 67501, and to: Governor Mike Hayden, 2nd floor, State Capital, Topeka, KS 66612 (913) 296-3232. Letters to Goodwin himself should be addressed: Timothy Owen Goodwin, Box 2, KSP, Lansing, KS 66043.

CHRISTOS ROUSSOS

Christos Roussos, a 29-year-old gay man, is recovering in hospital from a nearly fatal coma after ending a two-month hunger strike. The strike was in protest against the life sentence imposed on him in 1976 for the manslaughter of his lover. Last December, Greek President Christos Zartzetakis rejected Roussos' fourth appeal for pardon, ignoring recommendations from the Ministry of Justice.

According to his Support Committee and Kraxima magazine, the military court took no account of Roussos' youth, the behaviour of his bisexual lover (who had blackmailed him into being a transvestite prostitute), his sincere repentance, or his diminished criminal responsibility during the committal of the crime. Even though gay sex has been completely legal in Greece since 1931, Roussos was told that his homosexuality discredited his clean record.

The Greek gay liberation organization AKOE has protested the homophobia of Zartzetakis and of the Greek legal system, citing five cases in which the straight murderers of gay men have received sentences of between fourteen and 21 years.

Epicene will forward letters of support to Christos. Protests should be directed to local Greek consulates and to: Ministry of Justice, Mr Apostolos Kaxlamanis, Pircos Zinonos Street, Omonia Square, Athens, Greece.

(reprinted from Epicene, a gay news and culture magazine.)

FREE CAMERON KERLEY

Cameron Hapa, a Native youth, witnessed his father being beaten to death at the age of five. Three years later, when his family home burned down, he and his three sisters were taken away by the Manitoba Children's Aid Society. When Cameron was ten he attended the funeral of his mother who, depressed over the loss of her children, walked out into a snow storm and froze to death.

Being Native and eleven years old, Cameron was put up for adoption through a pilot project in Wichita, Kansas that did little screening of prospective parents. He was adopted by a single white man, Joseph William Kerley. Joseph repeatedly sexually abused the youth. Cameron repeatedly ran away. Once Betty Nixon, an elementary school teacher found him sleeping under a park bench - he had been there for over a week. He told her of his fate and she informed county officials. The judge presiding over Cameron's adoption stated that he must testify in court if he was to be taken from the Kerley house. Cameron, out of fear of Kerley, said that he could not do so.

He was returned to the Kerley house and the abuse continued.

Cameron turned the situation in on himself and started to drink heavily. One night at the age of seventeen, drunk, Cameron killed his abuser. He was sentenced to 18 years to life for second degree murder.

Since he has been in prison he has proven himself to be a model prisoner. He poses no further threat to society and prison can only cause further harm. The Sioux Valley Reserve has promised him full support.

Hasn't he suffered enough?! To keep him in jail any longer is a continuation of the injustices that have characterized his tragic life.

For more information, petitions and lobbying postcards, contact:

Richard Hamilton
241 Dublin St.
Peterborough, Ont.
K9H 3B9
(705) 742-2445

Donations for the "Free Cameron Kerley" campaign are needed.

For a more in-depth discussion of this case, see "A Death in Kansas," by Ray Aboud, Saturday Night Magazine, April 1986, pp. 28-39.

URGENT

On June 3, 1987, thirteen persons are processed at the Court of the Jury in Lamia, Greece facing serious charges like construction and use of explosives (molotov bombs). The 13 had been arrested on May 13, 1986 during a demonstration in Athens against the use of nuclear power after th Chernobyl accident.

PRISONER CORRESPONDENCE

The following would like support from the movement so if you can, please drop them a line.

Scott C. Smith

I've been doing my share in here I've spent approximately five of my seven years in isolation for assaults to destruction to escapes etc... Input and guidance is essential for maximum potential. I'm doing multiple life sentences so the degree of dedication is at the ultimate limit. Let me help!

Scott C. Smith
278891 D7 8W
PO Box 520
Walla Walla, WA.
USA 99362

THE VANCOUVER FIVE

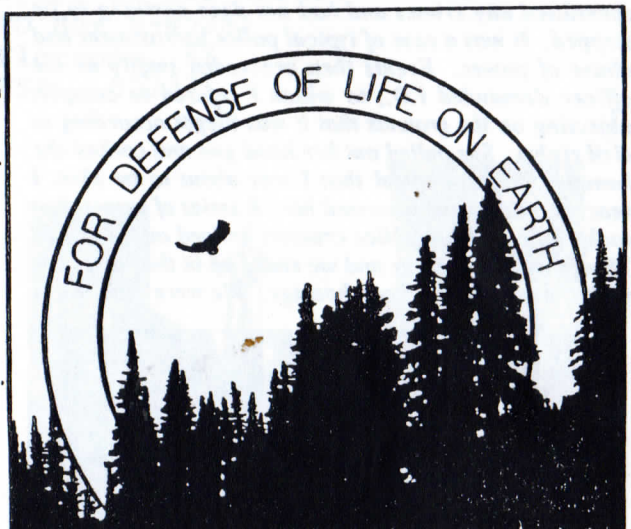
Four of them still appreciate support, correspondence and visits, so for those who may have been out of touch, here are their current addresses;

Brent Taylor
Box 190
Kingston, Ont.
K7L 4V9

Ann Hansen
POB 515
Kingston, Ont.
K7L 4W7

Doug Stewart
POB 4000
Abbotsford. BC.
V2S 4P3

Gerry Hannah has just recently been transferred to the minimum security Elbow Lake institution in BC. We do not as of yet have this address but it can presumably be obtained from the "Correctional" Services of Canada.



Reality Now is an anti-statist tabloid dedicated to exposing and confronting the people, institutions, and attitudes which control, attack and destroy our world and peoples. We focus on prisons and prisoners, Native struggles, the defense of our natural environment, direct action, and anarchist, feminist liberation struggles around the world. We also work as the Toronto branch of the *Anarchist Black Cross* in the defense of prisoners in need.

The continuation of our work depends on donations and subscriptions. You can help us advance this work by sending $6 (in Canada) or $7 (international) along with your name and address for a 4 issue subscription (free to prisoners). If you haven't already seen the magazine and want a sample, send $2 and we'll send you the latest issue, or send $3 for the past two issues. Please get in touch, smash the State, and have a nice day!

(Please make cheques and money orders payable to Reality Now)

REALITY NOW.

For Defense of Life on Earth.

P.O. Box 6326 Stn A, Toronto Ontario, M5W 1P7, Canada

Free Av

AVI NAFTEL is an Anarchist who is serving a **25 year sentence** in the Arizona State Penitentiary at Florence. Avi is a citizen of the United Kingdom and is eligible for transfer to the United Kingdom under the council of Europe Convention for the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

It all started when Avi and his wife were back packing alongside a northern Arizona highway, working their way to Nevada. Avi Naftel explains "*the incident involved myself and my wife in a confrontation with a State Police Womyn.*

"The officer stopped us for no reason, we had not committed any crimes and had not done anything to be stopped. It was a case of typical police harrassment and abuse of power. Events then proceeded swiftly as the officer demanded I.D., to which I refused to comply, objecting on the grounds that it was illegal according to civil rights. She pulled out her hand gun and cocked the hammer back. Fearful that I was about to be shot, I reacted quickly and disarmed her. A series of events then took place as other police cruisers arrived on the scene. Things were very tense and we ended up in the patrol car with the captured officer hostage. We were chased for about an hour or so, and then were ambushed at a road block near the Hoover Dam. After negotiating for a few hours I finally surrendered as I saw the press media had arrived on the scene. I had waited for that moment not because I wanted to get in the papers, but because I knew that if I surrendered without shots being fired the police would not dare shoot myself or my wife in front of these witnesses."

The judge at Avi's trial sentenced him to 15 years for **aggravated assault**, and 10 more on top for **kidnapping**. This is Avi's *first* conviction in his life! And no one was harmed in the incident! In fact the officer testified at trial that she had been treated with care and compassion while held hostage. She was even back to work the next day!

Avi is in **solitary confinement** under the conditions of **social and sensual deprivation** geared to produce behavioural changes in individual personality. In an inspection of cellblock 6 on July 12-13, 1984 by Frand M. Rundle, M.D., he made the following observations. "*Cellblock Six operates as an all-encompassing behavioural conditioning apparatus, in a manner often unfathomed by the staff operating it which guarantees psychological mayhem inflicted upon inmates and staff, continued destruction and accelerated deterioration of the physical facility, with preventable harm suffered by inmates, staff, the institution and society in general.*" The prison is described by him as "a gloomy, dreary, cheerless place", and "a vivid picture of decay, deterioration and neglect". The administration "creates a steel and concrete desert, but without a ray of sunshine or a breath of air for certain inmates". Other conditions at the prison include **forced rectal searches, prolonged extreme isolation** and lack of sensory stimulation. The Inspection Report says " *in some, such conditions lead to profound depression and despair, and in some of these, the loss of the will to live and preoccupation with self-destruction. Some of these will kill themselves.*"

Avi Naftel is in such conditions, and has the right to be transferred to England, as he is a citizen of this country. He seeks the transfer in order to get out from the severe oppressive state treatment, to be closer to his family and friends, and because there exists a good possibility that England will **parole him within a year** after arriving in their prison system.

Naftel!

Under the transfer treaty, English officials may change the sentence, but not lengthen, to one that would have been given in that country for the same crime(s). Since Avi's was a non-violent first offence, chances are that he would have already completed a sentence recieved in England.

Avi thinks that the only way to bring about a transfer is through public pressure on the pertinent authorities. All he asks is people send letters to support his transfer to England. Avi has now spent five years of his life in prison in Arizona, with a transfer to England he could be free from prison rather tha facing 20 more years. The transfer is being blocked by Arizona prison officials, *please* take the time out of your busy life to aid in Avi's transfer.

Please send letters to;

Mr. Phillip T. White, Director,
Office of International Affairs,
Criminal Division
PO Box 7413
Ben Franklin stn.
Washington D.C.
USA 20044

Mr. Sam Lewis, Director
Arizona Dept. of Corrections
1601 West Jefferson
Phoenix, Az.
USA 85007

Mr. David Neal
Home Office
Criminal Policy Dept.
Queen Anne's Gate
London, 5W1 9AT
England

Governor Evan Mecham
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ.
USA 85007

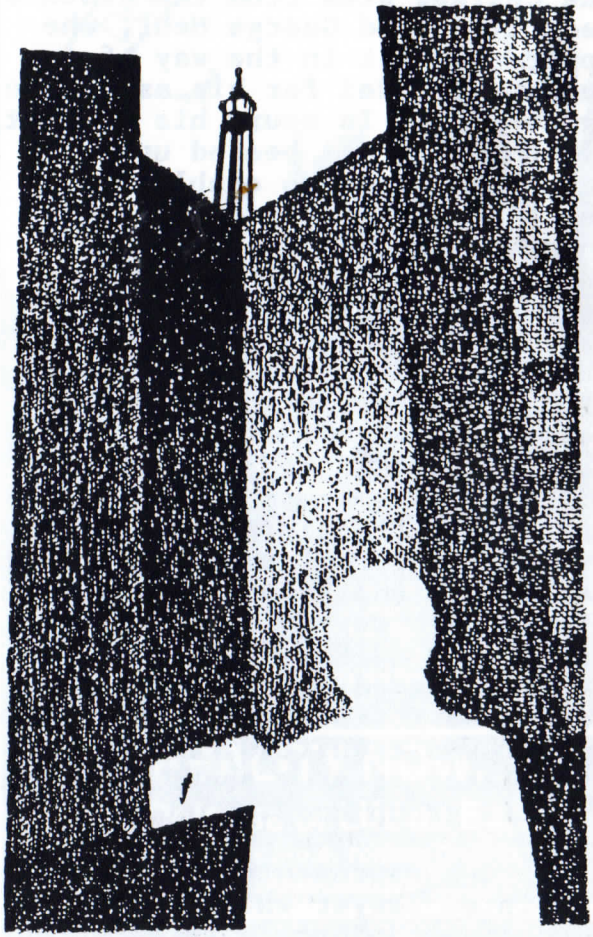
We can send you more information on his case and a sample letter from which you can get an idea of what to send. Write to the Anarchist Black Cross c/o Reality Now.

AVI NAFTEL UPDATE

Avi has found out that the county attorney will be prosecuting him for attempted escape. His first hearing has passed, and we should find out more details soon. As far as we know Avi is still in solitary confinement.

The charge of "attempted escape" was the chief stumbling block in the efforts to get his transfer request filed. So it is important to continue to pile on pressure to ensure that this option is open to him.

Write to Avi Naftel
PO Box B-45287
Florence, AZ
USA 85232



BARRY GIBBS ON DEATH ROW

Barry Gibbs is a "50% Native, 100% anarchist" who is waiting on death row in Philadelphia for his execution. Gibbs was sentenced to death as well as 10-20 years for the murder of a security guard on March 27th 1984. Gibbs was convicted of first degree murder, two counts of attempt to commit homicide, two counts of criminal conspiracy to commit homicide, and aggravated assault.

The charges stem from the death of security guard George Mehl, who apparently got in the way of a bullet intended for his associate, Bruce Burke. In court his security guard status was beefed up to "cop" status as to enable the death penalty to be used. According to the testimony of Bonnie Hagan, who turned states evidence against both Barry and her mother, Sharon Burke. Both she and her mother plotted the death of her stepfather in order to collect a $45,000 life insurance policy. She claimed prior to the killing that sexual abuse by her stepfather (the intended victim) led her to formulate the plot with her mother and stepsister. Barry Gibbs' help was solicited to do the actual murder. Hagan has now been sentenced to 7 1/2 to 15 years for third degree murder. Her mother was acquitted, and her stepsister spent a short period in a local group home.

Barry was represented by a state-appointed lawyer who was, according to Barry's father Walter, a personal friend of the victim's family. They tried three times to get a different lawyer but were unsuccessful. "After the jury came in with the death penalty," Walter Gibbs said. "Jacobs (Barry's attorney) shook hands with (D.A.) Weinstein and both had big smiles across their faces." Barry's father also claimed that the attorney encouraged Gibbs to "act crazy" and to tell psychiatrists he was involved in devilish cults. Now they have managed to obtain a new lawyer as Jacobs has joined the D.A.'s office, although this lawyer doesn't believe that the last one was bad at all. "I'm doing almost all of the legal research for my appeals myself, and my 'lawyer' is working hard against me," Barry remarks. "If I can get around him, I'll be OK. I'd do it all myself, but I lack the proper articulation one needs to write up the briefs. So I'm forced to depend on someone - who's paid by the same people who want to kill me - to save me."

"Things I could use would be law books, and if any anarchists are around headshrinker material, I could use all definitions of "Anti-social and borderline personality disorders" from psychiatric books, hopefully photocopies of articles naming book, author, date, etc. Probably a lot of anarchists are diagnosed as "anti-social" because we "Do Not Recognize Authority" and "Fai to Adhere to the Norms of Society." This stuff is important in my appeals & I have a lack of

resources to research for that here."

"I didn't say I needed money because asking is not necessary. Rich people don't go to jail, especially Death Row. People, especially anarchists, know that damn near everybody in jail could use money. Besides that, I hate begging."

"I really like the way most anarchists these days have a stronger attitude on defending the earth. I was raised on a farm, miles away from other kids my age. I spent most of my time playing in the woods alone. I loved those woods. Knowing that I was of Indian descent, I got real excited when I found pottery and arrowheads and such where I played at. Even more excited when I found out that it was my ancestors, the Delaware (Lenni Lenape) lived right in that area. I was amazed at how they left so little evidence of their civilization, just pottery and shaped flint. The forest remained as it had for thousands of years. Fauna and flora lived as free as ever. My family later moved and when I was 18, probably a month before I was busted, I rode my bike down to check it out after about four years since I had last seen it. To my surprise, someone had stolen my ancient past. The land my ancestors and I loved, lived on and left untouched was now flat, clear of trees and had paved roads about the place. Houses and trailer homes everywhere, a new housing development. Dozers, back hoes and what not on the perimeters waiting to enlarge the cancer growing on my mother. I couldn't identify if the tears were of sorrow, anger or both. Their "progress" is really death."

"If anybody you know has info and stories on the Lenape (Delaware Indian) culture, you have my address. They have me at Center State, my family and friends are far northeast and can only visit about twice a year due to distance. Any anarchists or like-minded people in the area who can pay me a visit are invited to brighten my day, and make the guards mad by seeing that someone gives a fuck about me. I just need a name to put on my list first."

"My thanks to all sisters and brothers out there who care about our Mother Earth, and brothers and sisters who are being held hostage by the government system."

Barry Gibbs "The Running Bear"
#Y-7344, Drawer R
Huntington, PA
USA 16652

The crime of black imprisonment

By Steven Whitman

Dostoevsky once wrote that if you want to know about a society, you should look into its prisons. When we look into prisons in the United States, we see the reflection of a profoundly unjust society.

Imprisonment rates are measured as the number of inmates per 100,000 people in the population. In 1925, when the United States began keeping these statistics, the imprisonment rate was 79 (per 100,000). This rate stayed more or less constant until 1972, when it started to rise dramatically. By mid-1986, more than a half-million people were in state and federal prisons. This number corresponds to an imprisonment rate of 219—about twice as high as it had ever been before 1972.

But this overall imprisonment rate obscures an important difference. In 1983 (the last year for which racial data are available), the imprisonment rate was 713 for black people compared to 114 for white people. This means that a black person is six times more likely to go to prison than a white person. In Illinois, he is 10 times more likely to go to prison.

It is also instructive to contrast international imprisonment rates. Using the latest available comparative data (from 1980), we find that white people in the U.S. go to prison at a rate similar to that for most Western Europeans. Incredibly, though, blacks in the United States go to prison more often than blacks in South Africa. In fact, the United States' black imprisonment rate is the highest in the world.

This reality is devastating for blacks. A 1979 government survey revealed that about one out of every five black men would go to prison in his lifetime. The imprisonment rates have spiraled since then, and the proportion is now closer to one out of every four. The total number of black men in the United States who have been in prison is about 3 million, roughly the population of Chicago.

People who have studied the reasons for these spiraling imprisonment rates have made startling observations. William Nagel, a well-known criminologist, analyzed many factors in each state to determine which were related to rapidly increasing imprisonment rates. He found no relationship between the crime rate (or violent crime rate) and the imprisonment rate, and no relationship between the crime rate (or the violent crime rate) and the proportion of black people in a state. However, Nagel discovered a very strong relationship between the imprisonment rate and the proportion of black people. In other words, people go to prison in increasing numbers because they are black, not because of a rise in the crime rate. Two British criminologists, Steven Box and Chris Hale, found similar results and concluded that people are sent to prison during times of economic stability, not because of an increase in crime but because they are perceived as a threat by those who hold power in society.

It is no coincidence that the rise in black imprisonment accompanies the rise of the Klan and the Nazis, attacks on black people in Howard Beach, Queens; in Forsyth County, Ga.; and in Marquette Park, Uptown and other areas of Chicago. It is not surprising that these events coincide with the term of a President who is endorsed by the Klan, who has undermined civil rights advances and decimated social programs. It is no coincidence that all of this occurs while the proportions of black doctors, lawyers and professors remain tiny; while the black infant mortality rate, which already in some communities is at levels associated with the Third World, remains twice the white rate; while the black maternal mortality rate is three times the white rate; and while black poverty intensifies.

The total number of black men in the United States who have been in prison is about 3 million, roughly the population of Chicago.

None of this could happen without the implicit, and far too often complicit, agreement of white people. We are caught up in a law-and-order ideology generated not by reality but by hysteria. Imprisoning more black people will not stop the decay of our social system. In fact, the opposite is true. Until whites confront racism, and stop using blacks as the scapegoats for our failing social system, the situation will only get worse. As Nagel writes, "The causes of crime in this country are deeply rooted in its culture and its economic social injustices. The massive use of incarceration has not contributed and will not contribute significantly to the abatement of crime or to the correction of flaws in the social fabric."

If prisons are indeed a window to society, what does this look at the prison system tell us? Most important, we are confronted with the undeniable reality that this society, built on a foundation of slavery and racism, is staying its course. The system of white supremacy has not been diminished but is in fact intensifying. Being human means refusing to accept such a system and thus blacks can be counted on to continue to resist and try to pursue freedom.

This presents white people with a choice: We can join forces with those in Howard Beach, Forsyth County and Marquette Park; or we can bury our heads in the sand, pretend that none of this is happening and announce that we aren't prejudiced; or we fight for a just society. We have to make this choice. But in making it, we must understand that the fight for equality and freedom for black people is actually the fight for the humanity of all people. The only real question is whether we will pursue a humane society or a racist one.

Steven Whitman is a lecturer at Northwestern University's Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research.

International Mailing List No. 2

The following is a list of groups and people that we've compiled in order to make communication on what is happening to prisoners, and how we can help, more effectively. It consists of people who will *move* on situations of prisoners. This means that they are the most likely people that we know who have great concern for prisoners, and will spread the information fast, send letters or petitions quickly, make phone calls to the support groups and the authorities, as well as sending in money for defence, and organizing demonstrations. Whatever you can do, please do *something*. There is a great lack of prisoner solidarity work being done, and this seems to imply that either people don't know what prisons are like, or they cannot ever imagine themselves being prisoners. Believe this, there are a great many good people behind prison walls for merely defending themselves. There are also many people who have done nothing at all! Many prisoners cannot afford a lawyer, or even have people to correspond with. Without more communication on these matters the pigs can torture, deny food, lock you in solitary confinement forever, or kill you, and nobody will even know who you are. We must make a stink. Please use this list to aid in your own prisoner solidarity work, and pass on addresses of people who will move to help those on the inside.

A.B.C. CONTACTS

ABC-TORONTO
c/o Reality Now
P.O. Box 6326, Stn. A
Toronto, Ont.
Canada, M5W 1P7
tel: (416) 947-0808

ABC-ENGLAND
BM Hurricane
London
WCIN3XX
England

ABC-DENMARK
c/o Peter Bach
Tordenskjoldsgade 38
4200 Slagelse
Denmark

ABC-AUSTRALIA
P.O. Box 1066
North Richmond 3121
Melbourne, Australia

ABC-CALIFORNIA
P.O. Box 215
San Lorenzo, CA
USA 94580

ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN
PO Box 915
Stn. F
Toronto, Ont.
M4Y 2N9

CANADIAN CONTACTS

PROJECTS FOR CHANGE
219 Hunter Street, West
Peterboro, Ont.
K9H 2L1
tel: (705) 745-4004

LIBRAIRIE ALTERNATIVE
2035 Boul. St. Laurent
Montreal, PQ
H2X 2T3

VULTER/NEMESIS
C.P., Stn. Place D'Armes
Montreal, PQ
H2Y 3E9

QUEER ANARCHIST NETWORK PRISONER SOLIDARITY
P.O. Box 6705, Stn. A
Toronto, Ont.
M5W 1X5

KICK IT OVER
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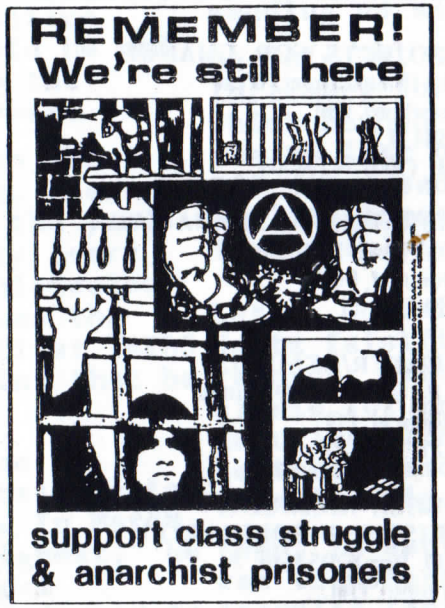

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LES AMIS DE ROBERT ET TOMEK
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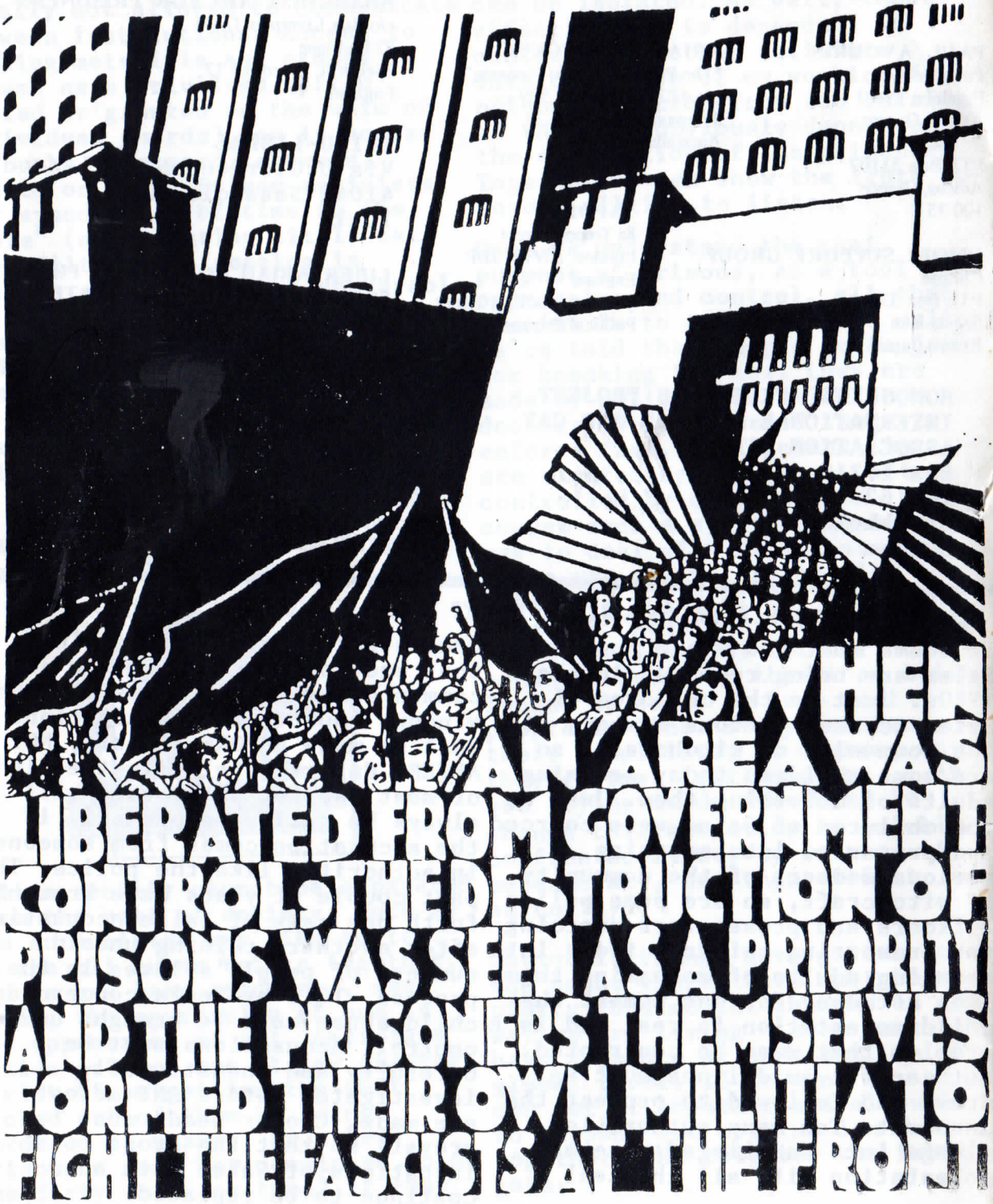
(Robert and Tomek are
Polish P.O.W.'s)

CAN WE CONDONE A MODERN WITCH HUNT? Karl Ahlers 4/5/87

It seems that the witch hunts of Salem are being replayed in the 1980s. Just as the children of Salem accused various members of the community of witchcraft, so are some children today accusing adults of molesting them. Just as the children of Salem were coerced and pressured into accusing various members of the community if witchcraft, so are some police officers and prosecutors coercing and pressuring children today into accusing adults of molesting them. I do not deny for one moment that child molestation is real and is a problem that must be confronted, but careful guidelines must be drawn and followed to protect the innocent. Too many authorities plunge into an alleged case of molestation with all the zeal demonstrated at Salem: meaning that emotionalism takes over and common sense and law goes out the window. Impartial investigations must be made BEFORE arrests, NOT AFTER. Unfortunately, in the minds of most people, an accused will always be guilty, especially if the accusation comes from someone in authority, like the police. The past couple of years have brought forth one case of false accusation after another, ruining untold numbers of people's lives in the process. This hysteria concerning child abuse must be brought under control. Accusations must be carefully and unemotionally investigated before ANY arrests are made. Cooler heads must prevail so that the gross injustices of Salem will not continue to be repeated.


WHEN
AN AREA WAS
LIBERATED FROM GOVERNMENT
CONTROL, THE DESTRUCTION OF
PRISONS WAS SEEN AS A PRIORITY
AND THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES
FORMED THEIR OWN MILITIA TO
FIGHT THE FASCISTS AT THE FRONT